

Message Text

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ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FBIE-00

/037 W

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R 151120Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE WASHDC (CFT DIV)

INFO /SECSTATE WASHDC 6162

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

SUITE 212

PAN AM BUILDING

HATO REY, PUERTO RICO

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 614

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC TD

SUBJECT: SUSPECTED COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY

CARACAS FOR RSO AND LEGATT

REF: PORT OF SPAIN'S 0585 OF MARCH 12, 1974 AND U.S.

SECRET SERVICE 0411 OF MARCH 13, 1974

1. THE "SUSPECT" UNITED STATES CURRENCY REFERRED TO
IN PORT OF SPAIN'S REFERENCED TELEGRAM 0585 OF MARCH
12, 1974, IS STILL BEING HELD BY THE TRINIDAD AND
TOBAGO POLICE. THE EMBASSY HAS MADE FOLLOW UP
ATTEMPTS TO ACQUIRE CUSTODY OF THE NOTES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF FORWARDING SAME TO THE SECRET SERVICE FOR
EXAMINATION BUT THESE EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.
AN EMBASSY OFFICER HAS BEEN PERMITTED TO PERSONALLY
EXAMINE THE NOTES ON THREE OCCASIONS, HOWEVER, THE
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE ARE BY REGULATION PROHIBITED
FROM SURRENDERING ANY EVIDENCE OR DOCUMENTATION WHICH
MAY BE REQUIRED OR USED AS EVIDENCE IN ANY FUTURE
CRIMINAL JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

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2. THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE HAVE, HOWEVER, GRANTED PERMISSION FOR THE EMBASSY TO PHOTOCOPY THE NOTES AND THE RESULTS THEREOF ARE BEING FORWARDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

3. THE PERSON(S) HAVING PASSED THE NOTES ARE NOT IN CUSTODY; HOWEVER THE BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS (ELSA'S TOY STORE, HART'S BAKERY AND BARCLAYS BANK; ALL OF PORT OF SPAIN) WHERE THE NOTES WERE RECEIVED HAVE IDENTIFIED THE SUSPECT AS BEING OF LATIN AMERICAN ORIGIN OR DESCENT. THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE IS PURSUING THE INVESTIGATION BUT THERE IS A GENERAL FEELING THAT THE SUSPECT HAS DEPARTED THE COUNTRY.

4. THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE READILY ADMIT TO A LACK OF EXPERTISE IN IDENTIFICATION OR VERIFICATION OF LEGITIMATE UNITED STATES CURRENCY BUT ARE MOST COOPERATIVE IN GRANTING PERMISSION FOR THE ON THE SPOT EVALUATION OF "SUSPECT" CURRENCY BY KNOWLEDGEABLE PERSONS. IN THIS REGARD, THE POLICE HAVE VERBALLY EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT SHOULD AN AGENT OF THE SECRET SERVICE OR OTHER QUALIFIED UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAVE OCCASION TO BE VISITING TRINIDAD, THE POLICE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE OF HAVING HIS/HER KNOWLEDGE IMPARTED TO THEIR LABORATORY TECHNICIANS AS WELL AS THE MEMBERS OF THEIR FRAUD SQUAD. THE EMBASSY FULLY ENDORESES THIS REQUEST BUT WOULD PREFER THAT IT BE ACCOMPLISHED ON AN INFORMAL BASIS DURING A TRIP BY ONE OF THE SERVICE'S AGENTS IN THE AREA OR OTHER QUALIFIED SPECIALIST AND THAT ANY CONTACT WITH THE POLICE BE THROUGH THE EMBASSY.

MILLER

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